

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling ~~consisting of comprising~~ an inert gas, ~~such as gas including~~ xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said ionizable salt ~~is selected from the group consisting of comprises~~ NaI, TlI, CaI₂ and X-iodide, wherein X ~~is selected from the group consisting of rare earth metals~~ comprises Nd.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein X is ~~selected from the group consisting of one or more elements selected from the group comprising~~ Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Nd.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein X is ~~selected from the group consisting of one or more elements selected from the group comprising~~ Ce, Pr, Nd.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the molar percentage ratio X-iodide/(NaI+TlI+CaI₂+X-iodide) lies ~~between 0 and 10%, in particular between 0.5 and 7%, more in particular between 1 and 6%.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the molar percentage ratio CaI₂/(NaI+TlI+CaI₂+X-iodide) lies between 10 and 95%.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to

claim 1, wherein the amount of NaI, TlI, CaI_2 , and X-iodide lies between 0.001 and 0.5 g/cm³, ~~in particular between 0.025 and 0.3 g/cm³.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, emitting light during stable nominal operation having a color temperature T_c above 3500K, wherein the filling of the discharge space also comprises a halide selected from Mn and In.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the filling comprises Hg.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the lamp has wall load when in stable operation at rated power of at least 30 W/cm².

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein at least one electrode extends inside the discharge vessel over a length forming a tip to bottom distance (t-

b) between the discharge vessel wall and the electrode tip and which the tip to bottom distance (t-b) is at most 4.5 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel has a rectangular cross section along the discharge path and wherein the tip to bottom distance (t-b) is at most 3.5 mm.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Lamp~~ The metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the filling of the discharge space is free of Cs.

13. (Previously Presented) The metal halide lamp of claim 1 to be used in a vehicle headlamp.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a vehicle ~~headlamp~~ said headlamp, said method comprising the ~~steps~~ acts of:

providing a ~~the~~ vehicle headlamp with a metal halide lamp

comprising a discharge vessel;

surrounding said discharge vessel with an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space;

filling said discharge space with a filling ~~consisting of~~
comprising an inert gas, such as gas including xenon (Xe), and an
ionizable salt, salt; and

arranging in said discharge space two electrodes whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, and them;

wherein said ionizable salt ~~is selected from the group~~
~~consisting of~~ comprises NaI, TlI, CaI₂ and X-iodide, wherein X ~~is~~
~~selected from the group consisting of rare earth metals~~ comprises
Nd.